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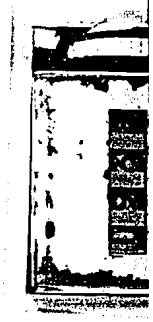

INVESTIGATION WORK OF THE ACADEMIA SINICA'S INDUSTRIAL CHEMISTRY RESEARCH OFFICE

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[Summary: The purpose of the work done by the Industrial Chemical Research Office of the Academia Sinica on industrial chemical research, was to eliminate the capitalistic concepts and motivations of the research personnel. This report discusses the selection of research subjects, problems of research direction and objectives, problems of content and sequence of research, liaison activities, dissemination of results of scientific experiments among industries, and the study of the Russian language.]

Bourgeois and "worship America" ideas are still prevalent among the personnel of the Industrial Chemical Research Office of The Academia Sinica. Research activities and progress have been greatly impaired during the past 2 years because the leadership of the office was unable to understand the trend of research programs and the technical "line" and unable to disentangle themselves from the current bourgeois ideas. Of the 33 research programs undertaken in 1951, only the studies on Hai Ch'ang blue dye, chloromycetin, and "p'u-nueh-ting" have been partially or completely applied in industry, while others have been discontinued altogether. Some types of research are not adaptable to industrial production, while others only produce collections of superficial and miscellaneous information (for example, the research on aluminum oxide), which merely squandered manpower and resources.

During the thought reform movement, a work cell was formed under the leadership of the higher levels of government and the party, which initiated a week of investigation of the research work. First, the silicon study unit of the cell gave its report. This report was then criticized and summarized by the different research units and thus it helped to determine the aims of the research programs. Finally, Deputy Chairman Chang Ta-yu gave the following summation:

The results of this investigation reveal a great understanding and improvement of work. The following six important points should be observed in research.

1. Selection of Research Subjects

Selection of research subjects has been largely self-determined or based on the necessities of individual factories and mines. For instance, in the "aluminum oxide experiment," the individual researcher was motivated by his belief that no study had been conducted in this field and that he could become famous in his research. All must now realize that the selection of research subjects must be initiated on the higher levels and that individual merit can be derived only by working for the good of all people.

2. Research Direction and Objectives

In the past, direction and objectives of research have often been nebulous or intentionally obscure. For example, the silicon study was originally designed to solve problems of the An-shan Iron and Steel Company, but for fear that the research would be fruitless, plans were altered allegedly to serve the interests of the entire country. The research continued for 2 years but produced only a few superficial dissertations and wasted 200 million yuan. Therefore, this investigative group conducted a profound inquiry, investigating not only the "worship America" concept, but also unveiling the latent "opportunism and conservativism viewpoints." Plans were accordingly revised on the basis of the inquiry.

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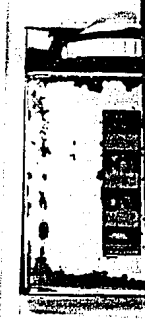

3. Content and Sequence of Research

Because of the inadequate exchange of information, there was unnecessary duplication in research. For example, blueprints for a carbonic acid tank were unnecessarily drawn several times, and after conducting several activated carbon experiments, it was discovered that Fu-shun [industries] had already made this same study. As a result of the investigation, plans were revised so that unnecessary duplication was eliminated and replaced by systematic organization.

4. Problems Concering Liaison

In the past, 30 or 40 attempts were required to successfully establish liaison between plants and mines. As a result of the investigation, liaison work has been revised to that the technicians and plant representatives can now solve their problems jointly and thereby reduce superfluous liaison activities.

5. Dissemination of Results Among Industries

In the past, research groups did not consider how the results of their experiments could be applied to industry, and, consequently, they neglected certain essential considerations. During the investigation, two special groups were organized to conduct experiments and disseminate the results of their work to mines and factories. Definite beneficial results were obtained. Therefore, the investigation showed that research must be realistic and strive to solve practical problems by making its conclusions and findings available to state-operated industries, rather than by conducting experiments for the sake of research alone.

6. Study of the Russian Language

The investigation revealed the need for industrial leaders to study the Russian language and to organize translation groups to work on Soviet materials in order to learn Marxism-Leninism, as well as the theory of Mao, which will replace the current bourgeois scientific knowledge.

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